

**REMARKS**

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 4, 6, 8-14, 16-21, and 23-25 in the above-referenced patent application. Applicant also acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner indicates that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of its base claim, claim 1. Applicant has canceled original claims 1, 2, 7, 15, and 22, without prejudice. Applicant also has rewritten claim 3 in independent format, including the limitations of independent claim 1, and has amended independent 5 to include some of the limitations of allowed independent claim 6. Moreover, Applicant has amended claims 6, 8, and 9, and has added new claims 27 and 28. Therefore, claims 3-6, 8-14, 16-21, and 23-28 currently are pending in the above-captioned patent application and are subject to examination. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. See, e.g., Appl'n, Page 57, Line 21; and Page 58, Line 11; and Fig. 23. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application, in view of the following:

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 7, 15, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Dubin (U.S. Patent No. 6,249,055) in view of Kim et al (U.S. Patent No. 4, 751,349). Applicant has canceled original claims 1, 2, 7, 15, and 22, without prejudice. Therefore, the obviousness rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, 15, and 22 now are rendered moot.

The Office Action rejected claims 5 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Dublin in view of Kim and further in view of Nogami et al (U.S. Patent

No. 6,022,808. Applicant respectfully traverses.

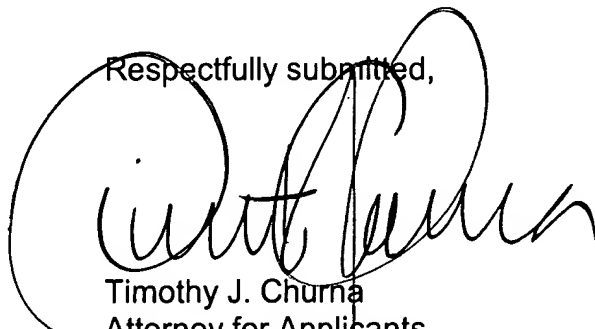
Applicant has amended independent claim 5 to include some of the limitations described in allowed, independent claim 6. Specifically, independent claim 5 now describes that a metal interconnection is buried in an opening formed in the insulation film. Applicants submit that the combination of Dublin, Kim, and Nogami at least fails to disclose or suggest that the metal interconnection is buried in the opening formed in the insulation film. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejection of claim 5.

Claim 26 depends from allowable claim 5. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner also withdraw the obviousness rejection of claim 26.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that the above-titled patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicant's representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-titled patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of record. Applicant is including herein a Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time, and a check in the amount of \$950 covering the requisite large entity fee for such an extension of time. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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